Statement-II

Steps taken to improve VPT services

* Replacement of VPTs working on MARR system and long overhead lines by WLL. 1,13,839 MARR VPTs have been replaced by WLL as on 31.10.2004 and balance 81,847 VPTs are planned to be replaced progressively by June, 2006.
* Replacement of faulty FWTs.
* All exchanges have been converted to digital electronic exchanges.
* Use of Jelly filled cables in the outdoor network.
* Opening of more telephone exchanges thereby reducing exchange area size.
* AMC with vendors who have supplied WLL equipment.

National Highways in Karnataka

*31.DR.VIJAYMALLYA:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of National Highways in Karnataka and the total amount spent on their maintenance during the last three years;

(b) the proposals pending for upgradation of State Highways into National Highways and by when these would be cleared; and

(c) the programmes of the present Government in connection of Golden Quadrilateral roads in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND" HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The total length of National Highways in Karnataka is 3843 km. The details of amount spent for maintenance of National Highways in Karnataka during the last three years are as under:

Year	Amount Spent (Rs. in Crore)
2001-02	39.99
2002-03	45.12
2003-04	38.73

(b) State Government of Karnataka has requested for declaration of the following Highways as National Highways:

Sl.No. Name of State Highway	Length (Km.)
(i) Mysore-Malavalli Road	45
(ii) Bilikere-Hassan-Hospet-Manvi-Raichur Road	612
(iii) Mysore-Srirangapatna-Hiriyur-Gulbarga-Bidar Road	743
(iv) Bangalore-Mysore-Madikere-Puttur Road	361
(v) Belgaum-Yaragalli-Mudgal-Raichur-Mahboob Nagar Road	338
(vi) Dharwad-Ramnagar Road	52
(vii) Bantwal-Mudigere-Belur-Sira-Chintamani-Srinivaspur-Mulabagal-State Border	487
(viii) Jeevargi-Hattigudur-Lingasugur-Sindhanur-Bellary	248
(ix) Doddaballapur-Nandi-Vijayapura-Vemgal-Kolar	82

In February, 2004, this Ministry has declared 7457 km of State roads including 273 km. in Kartiataka as National Highways. The present emphasis is on improvement of the existing National Highway network. Due to constraint of funds presently, there is no proposal for further declaration of National Highways.

(c) The total length of Golden Quadrilateral in Karnataka is 625 km. and 275 km. has already been completed. The balance length is scheduled for completion by December, 2005.